

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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-----127328 231229Z /23

R 230330Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6703
INFO :CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1492

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AF, PK, IN, EAGR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT DAOUD'S MARCH 3-5 VISIT TO INDIA

1. INDIAN AMBASSADOR S.K. SING ON FEBRUARY 22 GAVE ME SOME OF THE BACKGROUND TO PRESIDENT DAOUD'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO NEW DELHI. HE SAID THE INVITATION TO DAOUD WAS EXTENDED BY PRIME MINISTER DESAI THROUGH AFGHAN COMMERCE MINISTER JALALLAR WHEN THE LATTER VISITED NEW DELHI FOR THE JOINT AFGHAN-INDIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION MEETING IN DECEMBER 1977. HE SAID DESAI INSISTED THAT DAOUD COME TO INDIA BEFORE HE GOES TO AFGHANISTAN BECAUSE IT IS THE AFGHAN TURN, PRIME MINISTER GAHDHI HAVING VISITED AFGHANISTAN IN JULY 1976.
2. SINGH SAID HE EXPECTS NOTHING REALLY SIGNIFICANT TO EMERGE FROM THE VISIT. HE SAID THE AFGHANS WERE NERVOUS ABOUT THE NEW DELHI GOVERNMENT WHEN IT CAME TO POWER IN MARCH 1977 BECAUSE OF THE AFGHANS' CLOSE RELATIONSHIP IN THE PAST WITH NEHRU AND HIS DAUGHTER. THE VISIT OF MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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VAJPAYEE TO KABUL IN SEPTEMBER 1977 HELPED ALLAY AFGHAN CONCERNS. SINGH SEES THE DAOUD TRIP TO NEW DELHI AS A CULMINATION OF HIS EFFORTS TO BUILD CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE AFGHANS AND THE DESAI GOVERNMENT.

3. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION, SINGH SAID THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SHIPMENT OF 50,000 TONS OF INDIAN WHEAT TO AFGHANISTAN THROUGH PAKISTAN ARE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. HE SAID THAT PAKISTANI REALREAD

CARS WILL GO "SOME DISTANCE" INTO INDIA TO PICK UP THE WHEAT. HE SAID THE AFGHANS ARE SUPPOSED TO REPAY IN KIND IN TWO YEARS, BUT JOKINGLY ADDED THAT INDIA WILL PROBABLY BE REPAID THROUGH PL-480. 4. SINGH PRESSED ME HARD TO HAVE THE U.S. INTERVENE IN ISLAMABAD TO PERSUADE THE PAKISTANIS TO PERMIT THE SHIPMENT OF THE REMAINING 50,000 TONS OF WHEAT OFFERED BY THE INDIANS TO AFGHANISTAN. I DECLINED, SAYING THAT I BELIEVE THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION WILL ESTABLISH SOUNDER AND MORE PERMANENT RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THEMSELVES IF THEY WORK TO THIS END WITHOUT OUTSIDE PRESSURE. ELIOT.

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